Ministry of Agriculture

2016/17 – 2018/19 SERVICE PLAN

February 2016

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents 3
Minister of Agriculture Accountability Statement 4
Purpose of the Ministry 5
Ministry Roles & Responsibilities 5
Strategic Direction and Context 6
Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures 7
Resource Summary 17
Appendices 18
Appendix A: Ministry Contact Information 18
Appendix B: Agricultural Land Commission 21
Appendix C: British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board 24

Minister of Agriculture Accountability Statement

The *Ministry of Agriculture 2016/17 - 2018/19 Service Plan* was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.

Honourable Norm Letnick
Minister of Agriculture
February 5, 2016

Ministry Vision:

An innovative, adaptive and globally competitive Agrifood sector valued by all British Columbians.

Ministry Mission:

Cultivate a competitive and socially responsible Agrifood sector.

Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Agriculture (the Ministry) is responsible for the production, marketing, processing and merchandising of agrifood and seafood products; the institution and carrying out of advisory, research, promotional, sustainability and adaptation, food safety or plant and animal health programs, projects or undertakings relating to agrifood and seafood; and the collection of information and preparation and dissemination of statistics relating to agrifood and seafood. The legal and regulatory environment that guides the work of the Ministry includes 28 statutes which relate wholly or primarily to the Ministry. A complete list of legislation for which the Ministry is responsible is available at: http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/amr/amr/1135179498

Ministry Roles & Responsibilities

The following outlines the Ministries major business areas, including their roles and responsibilities.

Agriculture Science and Policy Division:

- Corporate Governance, Policy & Legislation Branch – Supports government's policy and legislative development, assessing market trends, leading intergovernmental relations, and evaluating the success of initiatives.
- Food Safety & Inspection Branch – Provides provincial and regulatory standards throughout the food system (processors, packers, distributors), assesses industry food safety compliance, and supports industry in its adoption of food safety standards.
- Plant & Animal Health Branch – Provides diagnosis and surveillance of plant and animal pests and diseases, identification of and response to emerging plant and animal diseases, and program delivery including licensing.

Business Development Division:

- Business Risk Management Branch – Improves access to capital and enables investment by helping producers manage risks that cause income losses and lead to financial instability, including weather hazards, natural disasters, wildlife, diseases, pests and market declines.
- Innovation and Adaptation Services Branch – Works to enhance agrifood and seafood sector growth, competitiveness, sustainability and adaptability. Provides expertise and support for: innovation, domestic and international marketing, management practices that promote agrifood systems that are environmentally sustainable and productive, and creating and maintaining a positive regulatory climate with local government.
- Sector Development Branch – Works directly with the agrifood and seafood sector in all areas of B.C. to build industry capacity by supporting: business development, First Nations agriculture, youth development, farm succession / new entrants, and agroforestry. Provides in-depth knowledge of the opportunities, challenges and needs of various sectors, and the emergency preparedness and coordination required for the agrifood sector in B.C.

Strategic Direction and Context

Strategic Direction

The *B.C. Jobs Plan: Agrifood & Seafood Strategic Growth Plan* sets out actions in three key areas of priority to help grow B.C.'s agrifood and seafood sector: increasing production, driving competitiveness, and building markets. The agrifood and seafood sector includes agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and food and beverage processing. This plan addresses key challenges and opportunities facing the sector including achieving economic growth, adapting to climate change and ensuring food supply security.

The Ministry's operations are guided by the Minister of Agriculture's *Mandate Letter* and the *Province of British Columbia Strategic Plan 2015/16 – 2018/19*, in which the agrifood and seafood sector is featured. The Ministry, the Agricultural Land Commission and the Farm Industry Review Board must operate under the *Taxpayer Accountability Principles* – cost-consciousness, accountability, appropriate compensation, service, respect, and integrity – to ensure that decisions that are made reflect the priorities and values of government and the citizens of B.C.

Strategic Context

B.C. has an enviable reputation as a leader in the production and processing of a wide range of safe, high-quality agrifood and seafood products, and enjoys a strong local domestic market driven by the largest population of the four western provinces. The Ministry works collaboratively with B.C.'s agrifood and seafood industry to improve the sustainability and security of B.C.'s food supply by improving production methods, enhancing biosecurity measures, and ensuring the highest standards in animal care and food safety.

In 2014, B.C.'s agricultural, fisheries, aquaculture and food and beverage manufacturing sectors employed approximately 55,000 people and generated $12.3 billion in annual revenue. The nearly 20,000 farms had total sales of $2.9 billion in 2014, and employed 22,900 people. The 678 aquaculture operations had $414.5 million in sales, while the 2,514 commercial fishing vessels had sales of $414.6 million and, together, employed another 3,400 people. The more than 1,800 processors handled a wide range of agrifood and seafood products, employed an estimated 28,100 people and generated over $8.5 billion in sales.

In 2014, B.C. exported $3.0 billion worth of agricultural and seafood products to 150 countries. There is a strong focus in B.C.'s agrifood and seafood sector on maintaining access and competitive advantage in global markets, necessitating quick responses to changing market opportunities. As a result, innovation, including new product development, is very important in establishing and servicing niche markets and responding to emerging market opportunities.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures

The Ministry's service plan is organized around three long-term goals:

- ***Goal 1***: Economic growth and diversity throughout the agrifood and seafood sector;
- ***Goal 2***: An environmentally sustainable agrifood and seafood sector; and,
- ***Goal 3***: Community and social well-being are enhanced by responsible agrifood and seafood sector practices.

The Ministry is committed to supporting government's strategic priorities for a strong economy and a secure tomorrow, as laid out in the Minister of Agriculture's *Agrifood and Seafood Strategic Growth Plan*, the Minister's *Mandate Letter* and the *Province of British Columbia Strategic Plan 2015/16 – 2018/19*. The priorities in the Minister's *Mandate Letter* as well as in the above plans are consolidated and reflected in this service plan. In addition, this year's service plan goals, objectives, performance measures and strategies have been updated to better align with the recently released *Agrifood & Seafood Strategic Growth Plan*.

Through the implementation of the *Taxpayer Accountability Principles*, the Ministry is strengthening cost management capabilities and fostering a principled culture of efficiency and accountability at all levels to ensure that this service plan is delivered in a way that best serves the public interest.

Goal 1: Economic growth and diversity throughout the agrifood and seafood sector.

Objective 1.1: Increased agrifood and seafood production.

B.C.'s agrifood and seafood producers benefit from a number of attributes, including a mild climate and extended growing season in many regions, an international reputation for food safety and quality, strong domestic markets and proximity to many export markets. These competitive advantages place B.C. in a strong position in the event of possible future disruptions to food supply systems. By increasing production of our wide range of products, introducing new products and increasing the value of market sales, we will increase the sector's revenues and create jobs for British Columbians.

Strategies

- Implement the new *Agrifood and Seafood Strategic Growth Plan*, developed in collaboration with the sector through the Minister's AgriFoods Advisory Committee. Implementation will help increase sector revenues.
- Implement B.C.'s Seafood Strategy to maximize the aquaculture, commercial, and marine recreational fisheries to support a diversified economy while balancing environmental sustainability objectives.

- Work with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations, private landowners, local governments and industry to develop and implement approaches that will increase and intensify production on unused and underutilized land.
- Provide strategic business development leadership and build business management awareness, market intelligence, and capacity within the agrifood and seafood sector.
- Continue delivery of the sustainable, long-term Tree Fruit Replant Program that supports grower's efforts to meet consumer demands for high-value, high-quality fruit.
- Create and implement a provincial forage plan.
- Work with stakeholders and other ministries to ensure that Provincial policies and programs relating to wildlife management and losses due to wildlife-agriculture conflicts are effective.
- Implement the changes to the *Agricultural Land Commission* and ensure the *Agricultural Land Reserve* is working for B.C.
- Work with the *Agricultural Land Commission* and the *BC Farm Industry Review Board* to implement a new performance and accountability regime that is in compliance with the *Taxpayer Accountability Principles*.

Performance Measure 1: Annual revenue growth in the Agrifood, Seafood, and Processing sectors ($ Billions).

Performance Measure	2014 Baseline	2015 Forecast	2016 Target	2017 Target	2018 Target
Agriculture	$2.9	$3.1	$3.2	$3.3	$3.5
Seafood	$0.8	$0.9	$0.9	$1.0	$1.0
Food and Beverage Manufacturing	$8.5	$8.9	$9.2	$9.7	$9.9
Total Annual Projected Revenue*	**$12.3**	**$12.8**	**$13.3**	**$14.0**	**$14.4**

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Cansim Tables 002-0001 and 003-0001 and adapted from Cansim Table 304-0015.
Forecast and Targets – B.C. Ministry of Agriculture
*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Discussion

This outcome measure reflects the objective of achieving economic growth and aligns with the Ministry's new *Agrifood and Seafood Strategic Growth Plan*, and the previous strategy: *BC Agrifoods: a strategy for growth*. This measure shows growth in annual revenues by the agrifood and seafood sector by monitoring growth in the value of farm cash receipts for crops and livestock, the landed value of seafood, and the estimated value of shipments from B.C. food and beverage processors. Targets are based on the average annual rate of change in revenues. Since these revenues are driven by market conditions, they are not wholly under the Ministry's control.

In 2015, the forecast revenues for the agrifood and seafood sector are higher than those realized in 2014. These increases reflect the rises in both average prices and harvest levels for many agrifood and seafood

commodities. The 2016 – 2018 targets, if achieved, would see the agrifood industry revenues reach the *BC Agrifoods: a strategy for growth* goal of $14 billion in sectoral revenues by 2017 and create a strong foundation for achieving the *Agrifood and Seafood Strategic Growth Plan* goal of $15 billion per year by 2020.

Objective 1.2: Increase the competitiveness of the agrifood and seafood sector.

The Ministry encourages growth in the agrifood and seafood sector through programs that foster innovation, including the development of new products and agri-technologies, competitiveness and improved market access. The Ministry works with industry to identify opportunities and take calculated and balanced risks that create value, increase efficiencies and reduce costs which enhance the viability of agrifood and seafood businesses.

Strategies

- Support innovative product and process development, commercialization and technology adoption.
- Implement programs and initiatives that help the sector become more competitive.
- Enable industry to identify, reduce, and manage risk to improve access to capital and enable investment.
- Promote one portal access to government services and ensure that Ministry of Agriculture services are easily accessed by British Columbians and agrifood and seafood sector businesses.
- Promote the sector's labour interests and encourage industry to leverage labour partnerships, training, and programs.
- Work with the Ministry of Finance to implement the 25 per cent tax credit on the value of farmed food donated to nonprofit organizations.

Objective 1.3: Build markets for agrifood and seafood products at home, across Canada, and internationally.

The Ministry encourages the growth of the agrifood and seafood sector through programs, policies, and trade agreements that develop markets and improve market access. By expanding domestic, interprovincial and international markets, we can ensure sustainable, long-term growth for B.C.'s agrifood and seafood sector and contribute to economic growth and continued job creation across the province.

Strategies

- Work with industry and government partners to create and implement an international marketing strategy that guides market development and trade access priorities and continues to build on the province's export successes.
- Help producers and processors capitalize on new domestic and international market opportunities.
- Deliver market development initiatives to expand export sales of B.C.'s agrifood and seafood products to international markets, including the U.S. and China.
- Implement the ministry's interprovincial trade strategy in an effort to break down barriers for B.C. agrifood and seafood products in other provincial markets (e.g. pursue agreement from all Canadian provinces on direct-to-consumer shipments of wine). The Ministry of International Trade will continue to be a key partner in these efforts.
- Provide the B.C.'s agrifood and seafood sector with timely information, market data, and market intelligence reports to identify opportunities for the sector.

Performance Measure 2: Annual Value of Agrifood and Seafood Exports ($ Billions).

Performance Measure	2014 Baseline	2015 Forecast	2016 Target	2017 Target	2018 Target
Annual Value of Agrifood and Seafood Exports[1]	$2.96	$3.00	$3.05	$3.10	$3.20

Data Source: Statistics Canada, CATSNET Analytics.

[1] This performance measure replaces the "Ratio of administrative costs to Production Insurance premiums" performance measure used in previous service plans. The Ministry had reported against a ratio of administrative costs to premiums, with an ongoing target of 20:80 as this type of ratio is most comparable to the private sector. Because the stability of a 20:80 ratio was a positive indicator of performance, the measure did not demonstrate performance improvement over time, as improved performance was best represented through a static 20:80 ratio.

Discussion

In 2014, BC exported almost $3.0 billion worth of agrifood and seafood products. This performance measure tracks BC agrifood and seafood exports to more than 150 markets, including those destined for BC's top five markets, the United States, China, Japan, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Goal 2: An environmentally sustainable agrifood and seafood sector.

Objective 2.1: Sustainable management of British Columbia's soil, water and air resources to reduce the sector's impact on the environment.

The Ministry supports the agrifood and seafood sector to proactively address environmental risks and the impacts of climate change.

Strategies

- Provide programs and activities that identify and address critical agricultural environmental issues and enable adoption of Beneficial Management Practices supporting environmentally responsible production.
- Encourage innovations that reduce the environmental impact of agrifood and seafood production, including reducing air emissions and improving the management of processing byproducts.
- Implement a nutrient management strategy for selected regions and industry sectors.
- Respond to farm practice complaints and address emerging environmental impacts from farming activities.

Performance Measure 3: Cumulative and Annual Number of Environmental Farm Plans Completed.

Performance Measure	2016/17 Baseline	2015/16 Forecast	2016/17 Target	2017/2018 Target	2018/19 Target
Cumulative number of Environmental Farm Plans[1]	4,237[2]	4,437	4,637	4,837	5,037
Annual number of Environmental Farm Plans completed	261	200	200	200	200

Data Source: Agricultural Research and Development Corporation reports and agreements.

[1] Canada-British Columbia *Growing Forward* Agreement (2008-2013) and *Growing Forward 2* (2013-2018).

[2] The 2016/17 Base data are made up of the cumulative number of completed Environmental Farm Plans since 2003/2004.

Discussion

This measure provides an indication of the response of farmers to environmental opportunities and risks on their farms. An Environmental Farm Plan is a voluntary, confidential assessment of opportunities to enhance environmental operations on B.C. farms and ranches.

An assessment is conducted by the farm/ranch operator with the assistance of a trained planning advisor. The performance measure is the cumulative number of completed Environmental Farm Plans. These assessments are a prerequisite to accessing funding to implement Beneficial Management Practices targeted at specific agri-environmental situations.

Objective 2.2: Sustainable agrifood and seafood management practices that avoid unsuccessful adaptation to climate change.

The Ministry supports the efforts of industry to develop innovative products, tools and processes to reduce and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change.

Strategies

- Participate in the development of regionally appropriate water and land management strategies with local government and industry.
- Promote research and development to capitalize on opportunities for B.C.'s agrifood and seafood sector that climate change conditions will bring.
- Coordinate with industry, local governments and other partners to increase the capacity of B.C. farmers to adapt to climate change, and weather-related production risks and impacts as committed to in the new *Agrifood and Seafood Strategic Growth Plan*.
- Support the development and implementation of B.C.'s *Climate Leadership Plan*.
- Address critical agricultural environmental issues and enable the adoption of Beneficial Management Practices, including the development of regionally appropriate water management strategies with local government and industry.

Performance Measure 4: Number of Climate Adaptation Projects Completed.

Performance Measure	2015/16 Baseline	2016/17 Forecast	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Cumulative number of regional adaptation projects and farm-level adaptation projects completed [1, 2]	10	17	29	35	40
Annual number of projects completed	8	7	6	10	10

Data Source: B.C. Agriculture and Food Climate Action Initiative.

[1] Includes projects with funding through *Growing Forward 2*, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative that commenced in 2013/14.

2. The performance measure used in the previous Service Plan was limited to the "Number of Regional Adaptation Strategies" completed. With 5 regional adaptation strategies complete and a fifth underway, the ministry will now focus on the adaptation projects that flow from and support the strategies together with farm-level adaptation projects. The number of climate adaptation projects completed will provide a better indicator of climate adaptation in future years.

Discussion

Successful adaptation to climate change will be necessary for the agrifood sector to continue to grow and be an important contributor to the B.C. economy. Government and the agriculture industry have both made adaptation a priority, and are working in partnership to build resilience and adaptive capacity in the sector.

This measure provides an indication of B.C.'s progress in building agricultural adaptive capacity to climate change risks and it consists of projects that flow from multi-partner regional adaptation strategies and the Farm Adaptation Innovation Program. The regional adaptation and farm-level projects are being delivered collaboratively by industry, local governments and other partners through the B.C. Agriculture and Food Climate Action Initiative.

The initiatives are supported by and delivered through the BC Agricultural Research & Development Corporation and the Investment Agriculture Foundation.

Regional adaptation strategies are being developed for key agricultural regions of B.C. Strategies have been developed for the Cowichan, Delta, Peace, Cariboo, Fraser Valley and Okanagan regions. Priority actions from the strategies are developed into projects that provide collaborative solutions to regional issues and project examples to date include: farm-level toolkits and manuals, producer decision support tools, and projects that address specific adaptation concerns.

The Farm Adaptation Innovator Program supports projects at a farm level to pilot, demonstrate, and share knowledge about farm practices and technologies that reduce weather related production risks.

It is common for regional adaptation projects and farm-level projects to be delivered over multiple years to accommodate their large scope, multi-stakeholder nature, or need to include multiple production cycles.

An example of a regional adaptation project is the two-year pilot project in the Peace region that brings together agricultural and government partners to monitor pests, pathogens and weeds, develop better ways to communicate changes to producers throughout the production season, and foster target actions. Changes in the distribution and prevalence of agricultural pests, pathogens and weeds are part of climate changes that are underway.

Goal 3: Community and social well-being are enhanced by responsible agrifood and seafood sector practices.

Objective 3.1: Promote positive relationships to facilitate sustainable agrifood and seafood production.

Agrifood and seafood activity depends on good relations with local government and community members. For example, with only 1.7 per cent of British Columbians living on farms, it has become increasingly important for local governments to keep in touch with farm and ranch communities to help facilitate support for the agricultural sector.

Preservation of agricultural land in British Columbia is overseen by the Agricultural Land Commission, and the Ministry supports the *Agricultural Land Commission*'s work by promoting a positive urban-agricultural environment to ensure farmers can continue to farm in farming areas.

Strategies

- Promote a positive regulatory climate with local governments to support the agrifood and seafood sector across B.C., in part by establishing standards to guide local government bylaw development

- Support local governments and their subcommittees in planning for, and promoting, the agrifood and seafood sector in their jurisdictions.
- Work with industry to promote local agrifood and seafood through buy local initiatives.
- Support quality certification programs (e.g. Marine Stewardship Council, the Golden mile wine appellation, and regulating the use of the term 'organic') that provide industry with a competitive edge, enhance sustainability, and encourage the use of B.C. inputs in food and beverage processing.
- Support access to retail for local producers and processors.
- Support and deliver on activities contributing to sustainable agriculture business development in First Nations communities.
- Support 4-H British Columbia through delivery of projects, training, workshops and resources to provide youth with current information on the BC agriculture industry, farm safety, animal care, sustainable agriculture practices and other issues facing agriculture.
- Ensure strong legislation is in place that supports animal welfare.
- Support for industry initiatives on training and education in animal welfare.

Performance Measure 5: Hectares of Agricultural Land Use Inventories completed.

Performance Measure	2014/15 Baseline	2015/16 Forecast	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Cumulative hectares (Ha) of Agricultural Land Use Inventories[1]	1.8M Ha	2.0M Ha	2.5M Ha	3.1M Ha	4.0M Ha
Hectares of Agricultural Land Use Inventories completed per year	300K Ha	200K Ha	500K Ha	600K Ha	900K Ha

Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture

[1] This new performance measure replaces 'Number of Agricultural Area Plans completed' used in previous Service Plans. The 'Hectares of Agricultural Land Use Inventories (ALUIs) Completed' provides a more robust and direct measure of the Ministry's progress inventorying agricultural lands.

Discussion

This measure describes the collection of consistent, credible and comprehensive data about land use and land cover on lands associated with agriculture and agricultural potential. Agricultural Land Use Inventories (ALUIs) generate a wealth of information for the sector. They provide background data for the development of Agricultural Area Plans by local governments, are a key tool for developing agriculturally supportive bylaws and support economic development of the sector. The data enables accurate monitoring of changes in land use patterns and practices and estimation of farm vacancy rates and potential farming expansion. Several predictive models rely on ALUI data, including the Agricultural Water Demand Model (AWDM) and Air Emission Model. The AWDM provides information necessary to establish agriculture water reserves under the new *Water Sustainability Act*.

The data also contributes to our understanding of climate change impacts and associated risks and opportunities. Emergency response for environmental disasters and animal health events are also informed by ALUIs.

Each ALUI project utilizes a unique mix of partnerships and resources, depending on the interest in project and the identified need for the data. Local governments, nonprofit organizations, and community interest groups often provide support for projects in their local areas.

Objective 3.2: Animal, plant and human health are safeguarded.

The Ministry, in partnership with federal, provincial and local government agencies, delivers services and initiatives to effectively manage food safety, plant, fish and livestock health risks protecting public health and maintaining consumer confidence domestically and internationally.

Strategies

- Continue to work with government and industry groups to identify and implement traceability and biosecurity strategies that will reduce the risk of animal disease outbreaks.
- Engage industry and other federal and provincial agencies to update the BC Foreign Animal Disease Emergency Support Plan.
- Promote industry adoption of initiatives to enhance biosecurity in B.C.
- Continue to work with industry, Federal, Provincial, and local government agencies to ensure effective coordination to critical disease control responses for both plants and animals.

- Maintain provincially operated veterinary and plant diagnostic laboratories for the timely and accurate diagnosis of production limiting, foreign and new and emerging diseases and pests.
- Implement and deliver comprehensive provincial-level programs for animal, fish and plant health that manage the risks of animal and fish disease, plant pests and invasive species and contribute to national programs.
- Implement an evidence informed food safety framework that tailors food safety programs and services to support the agrifood and seafood sector's implementation of nationally and internationally recognized food safety systems and practices.
- Maintain a provincially operated, cost-effective meat inspection program to ensure regulatory compliance of provincially licensed abattoirs and enforcement of unlawful slaughter of animals intended for human consumption.
- Maintain a provincially operated, cost effective seafood inspection system to support industry and ensure regulatory compliance of provincially licensed seafood operations.

- Deliver plant health management and integrated pest management programs and services to promote healthy and viable crops.
- Advise growers on integrated pest management practices.
- Provide training for safe and appropriate use of pesticides and enable the registration of pesticides.

Performance Measure 6: Number of Livestock Farm and Co-mingling Sites Registered in BC Premises Identification Program.

Performance Measure	2014/15 Baseline	2015/16 Forecast	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Number of livestock farms and co-mingling sites registered in BC Premises Identification Program[1].	2,000	2,470	2,940	3,410	3,880

Data Source: Statistics Canada 2011 Census of Agriculture; B.C.'s agricultural commodity boards; Ministry of Agriculture
*There are approximately 9425 priority premises.

[1] This performance measure replaces "Per cent of routine diagnostic animal and plant samples completed within seven working days" used in previous service plans. This diagnostic testing is performed by the Animal Health Centre Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (AHL). Turnaround time (TAT) on testing was used because it is a key performance indicator of laboratory service and performance in general; however, because the lab had reached a very short TAT already and a static percentage now is a sign of good performance, the measure would not be expected to change from year to year.

Discussion

The BC Premises Identification (BCPID) Program is one of the pillars of livestock traceability and links livestock and poultry to land locations or premises. The BCPID Program was established to support the planning, control and prevention of foreign animal diseases outbreaks, such as Avian Influenza in poultry or Bovine Tuberculosis in livestock. BCPID is also used as an early warning system to notify animal owners of an emergency such as flood or fire that could affect their animals or operations. The majority of regulated pork, poultry and dairy cattle premises have been registered through collaboration with industry boards and associations. Among non-regulated producers, the Ministry is using a range of strategies to encourage voluntary registration, including collaboration with commodity associations and streamlining the application process.

Several factors, such as market and regulatory demands, are expected to cause a significant increase in registration rates. In preparation for this influx of registrations, a more sophisticated premises identification system is close to being launched which will enable livestock operators to quickly register their premises online.

Resource Summary

Ministry of Agriculture	2015/16[1] Restated Estimates	2016/17 Estimates	2017/18 Plan	2018/19 Plan
Operating Expenses ($000)				
Agriculture Science and Policy	16,488	16,544	16,744	16,891
Business Development	39,745	40,202	40,804	40,964
BC Farm Industry Review Board	1,201	1,206	1,215	1,232
Executive and Support Services	7,389	6,996	6,615	6,619
Sub-Total	**64,823**	**64,948**	**65,378**	**65,706**
Agricultural Land Commission[2]	3,406	4,524	4,553	4,574
Production Insurance Special Account (Net)	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Total	**80,229**	**81,472**	**81,931**	**82,280**
Ministry Capital Expenditures ($000)				
Executive and Support Services[3]	754	1,168	1,168	1,168
Agricultural Land Commission	80	-	-	-
Total	**834**	**1,168**	**1,168**	**1,168**

Notes:

[1] For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2015/16 are consistent with the presentation of the 2016/17 Estimates.

[2] Agricultural Land Commission increases of $1.1 million in 2016/17. This additional funding will be directed to providing more expedient application reviews, enhanced compliance and enforcement activities, and increased support for the operation of regional panels.

[3] Ministry Capital Expenditures, Executive and Support Services increase of $0.3 million as scheduled in the fleet replacement strategy.

Appendices

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Appendix B: Agricultural Land Commission

Purpose of the Commission

The Provincial Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) is the independent administrative tribunal dedicated to preserving agricultural land and encouraging farming in BC. The ALC is responsible for administering the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), a provincial land use zone where agriculture is the primary land use taking place on the limited agricultural land base. The ALR is based on the biophysical resource base (soil and climate) where lands are capable of growing crops. As an administrative tribunal operating at arm's-length from government, the ALC is accountable to the legislature through the Minister of Agriculture. Its operations are funded by a vote of the legislature.

In general, an administrative tribunal is a specialized government agency established under provincial legislation to implement legislative policy. The ALC is expected to exercise its role in a non-partisan manner and Commission members must faithfully, honestly and impartially perform their duties.

The work of the ALC is carried out by a provincial government appointed Chair, 6 Vice-chairs and 12 Commissioners from six regions of the province who are collectively the board of directors of the ALC. The board is supported by a centrally located professional staff secretariat.

The purposes of the ALC as set out in s.6 of the Agricultural Land Commission Act are:

- To preserve agricultural land;
- To encourage farming on agricultural land in collaboration with other communities of interest; and
- To encourage local governments, First Nations, the government and its agents to enable and accommodate farm use of agricultural land and uses compatible with agriculture in their plans, bylaws and policies.

When exercising its powers in Zone 2 (the North, Kootenay and Interior regions), under s. 4.3 of the Agricultural Land Commission Act, the ALC also considers in descending order of priority:

- the purposes of the commission set out in section 6;
- economic, cultural and social values;
- regional and community planning objectives;
- other prescribed considerations.

The core business functions of the ALC are land use planning and policy, working with local governments and stakeholders on land use matters affecting the ALR, compliance and enforcement and adjudication of land use applications.

Further information about the work of the ALC may be found at http://www.alc.gov.bc.ca.

Goals, Objectives and Strategies:

Goal 1: Preserve Agricultural Land and Encourage Farming

Objective 1.1: Preserve the provincial agricultural land base through comprehensive decision making

Strategies

- Consideration of Section 6 of the mandate in all Commission decisions.
- Consideration of Section 4.3 of the mandate in all Commission decisions with Zone 2.
- Consideration of agricultural capability and suitability of lands under application.
- Consideration of the potential impacts on the land base and the agricultural use of the land base with regard to all application requests and land use planning initiatives.

Objective 1.2: Expand land use planning functions to work with local governments on community planning, major projects and emerging issues.

Strategies

- Encourage local governments to engage in discussions with the Agricultural Land Commission and planning staff regarding their land use planning processes.
- Encourage local government and other land use agencies to develop agriculturally sympathetic land use planning.
- Review Agricultural Land Reserve boundaries in select areas of the Province with a view to confirming the accuracy and appropriateness of the boundary.
- Become involved in major projects at the early conceptual developmental phase.
- Research and assess emerging issues that impact the agricultural land base.

Objective 1.3: Ensure a high degree of compliance with the Agricultural Land Commission Act, regulation and orders of the Agricultural Land Commission.

Strategies

- Ensure compliance with the Act, regulations and orders of the Agricultural Land Commission based on current resources.
- Follow up on complaints of inappropriate use of Agricultural Land Reserve lands.

Discussion

The ALC's goals, objectives and strategies are guided by its legislative mandate, and by the 2015/16 Ministers Mandate Letter.

As an administrative tribunal, the Commission is required to exercise its statutory decision-making functions independently. As a publicly funded body, the Commission is required to ensure that its operations are conducted in a cost-conscious and principled manner consistent with the Taxpayer Accountability Principles – cost consciousness, accountability, appropriate compensation, service, respect, and integrity. All Commission members are required by law to "faithfully, honestly and impartially perform their duties. The Commission's Governance Policy (2014), sets out the roles and responsibilities of its members, its administrative accountability, and standards of conduct for its members.

Appendix C: British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board

Purpose of the Board:

The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board (the Board) is an independent administrative tribunal that operates at arm's-length from government. As the regulatory tribunal responsible for the general supervision of B.C. regulated marketing boards and commissions, the Board provides oversight, policy direction and decisions to ensure orderly marketing and to protect the public interest. In its adjudicative capacities, the Board provides a less formal system than the court for resolving disputes in a timely and cost effective way. The Board consists of a part-time board of up to ten members and nine full time equivalent staff positions and is accountable to government for its administrative operations.

The Board's statutorily mandated responsibilities are established in the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act*, the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act*, the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*, and the *Agricultural Produce Grading Act* and are supported by the *Administrative Tribunals Act*. They include:

- supervising B.C.'s regulated marketing boards and commissions;
- being a signatory to formal federal-provincial cooperation agreements in regulated marketing;
- hearing appeals of regulated marketing board and commission orders, decisions and determinations;
- hearing appeals of Minister of Agriculture decisions to refuse, suspend, revoke or not renew agricultural produce grading licenses;
- hearing appeals related to certain animal custody and cost decisions of the B.C. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals;
- hearing farm practices complaints from persons disturbed by odour, noise, dust or other disturbances arising from agriculture or certain aquaculture operations; and
- conducting farm practices studies.

The Board has adjudicative independence in its decision-making, and through its strategic plan and other documents, establishes goals, objectives, strategies and performance measures necessary to achieve its administrative role as a public sector agency, including cost-consciousness, accountability, appropriate compensation, service, respect and integrity as outlined in the Taxpayer Accountability Principles. The Board periodically reports to the Minister concerning its administrative mandate. Further information about the Board may be found at http://www.firb.gov.bc.ca/.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures:

Goal 1: A regulated marketing system with effective self-governance.

Objective 1.1: The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board and marketing boards and commissions practice good governance in their external and internal operations.

Strategies:

- Ensuring that marketing boards and commission activities and decisions are administratively fair, comply with legislation/regulations, and accord with sound marketing policy
- Requiring boards to give consideration to the government policy framework and the public interest
- Providing supervisory intervention when necessary
- Working to achieve priorities within budget while continuing to place importance on board and staff development and training
- While preserving its independence as a tribunal, continuing to work to ensure effective relations with the Ministry of Agriculture, regulatory agencies at all levels, and stakeholders

Performance Measure 1: BCFIRB and the boards and commissions it supervises exercise appropriate governance and fiscal procedures in exercising their mandates.

Performance Measure	2016/17 Actual	2005/06 Expectation	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
BCFIRB & boards/commissions exercise appropriate governance & fiscal procedures.	Met	Meet	All meet 2016/17 expectations	All meet 2017/18 expectations	All meet 2018/19 expectations

Performance Measure 2: Boards and commissions demonstrate that their programs, policies and decisions reflect legislative intent, sound marketing policy and consider the public interest.

Performance Measure	2016/17 Actual	2005/06 Expectation	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Programs, policies and decisions reflect legislative intent, sound marketing policy and consider public	Met	Meet	All meet 2016/17 expectations	All meet 2017/18 expectations	All meet 2018/19 expectations

Performance Measure 3: The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board demonstrates fiscal responsibility by operating within budget.

Performance Measure	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Expectation	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
BCFIRB expenditures are on budget	9.4% over official budget	Expenditures are within budget	Expenditures are within budget	Expenditures are within budget	Expenditures are within budget

Goal 2: A principles-based, outcomes-oriented approach to regulation.

Objective 2.1: The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board and marketing boards and commissions use a principles-based approach to regulating.

Strategies:

- Working with boards and commissions to develop, adopt, and employ a principles-based approach to regulation
- Requiring all British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board, marketing board and commission orders, decisions and determinations to be made available to the public, except where privacy legislation and policies apply
- Promoting policies that reflect B.C. interests at both the federal and provincial levels

Performance Measure 4: The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board and the boards and commissions it supervises demonstrate the application of the Strategic, Accountable, Fair, Effective, Transparent and Inclusive (SAFETI) principles in their programs, policies and decisions.

Performance Measure	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Expectation	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
BCFIRB & Boards and Commissions routinely apply SAFETI principles	Met	Meet	All meet 2016/17 expectations	All meet 2017/18 expectations	All meet 2018/19 expectations

Performance Measure 5: British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board orders, decisions, determinations, practices and procedures and other information are published. Marketing board and commission orders, decisions and determinations are published promptly after being made in order to preserve rights of appeal under the Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act.

Performance Measure	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Expectation	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Orders, decisions & determinations are published promptly	Met	Meet	All meet 2016/17 Expectations	All meet 2017/18 expectations	All meet 2018/19 expectations

Performance Measure 6: The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board and the boards and commissions it supervises work to maintain and where possible grow the market for BC produced product.

Performance Measure	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Expectation	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
No production or base allocation lost to supply-managed sector	Exceeded	No loss	No loss	No loss	No loss

Goal 3: Effective, fair and independent resolution of inquiries and disputes.

Objective 3.1: Ensure issues and disputes arising within the British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board's jurisdiction are resolved in a fair and timely manner.

Strategies:

- Using farm practices audits to help prevent and resolve farm practices disputes
- Using supervisory processes to help prevent and resolve regulated marketing disputes
- Using timely, fair and accessible processes to help resolve complaints (under the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act*), and appeals (under the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act*, *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* and the *Agricultural Produce Grading Act*).

Performance Measure 7: BC FIRB reports annually on time from filing to resolution, cost per case, and user experience for each of its appeals and complaints processes. Appeals and complaints to BC FIRB are routinely handled within usual time periods established in its Practice Directives.

Performance Measure	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Expectation	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Appeals and complaints are routinely handled within usual time periods established in its Practice Directives	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Performance Measure 8: Demonstrated increased use of Alternative Dispute Resolution by marketing boards and commissions and the British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board.

Performance Measure	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Expectation	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Actual	2018/19 Actual
ADR is used whenever appropriate	Met	Meet	Whenever Appropriate	Whenever Appropriate	Whenever Appropriate